

people or people who have a need for the system. I absolutely do not see it in that light. I have watched this system over the past twenty-some years and worked with it intimately as an advocate, as a county board member that used to administer the system and the applicants to enter that system. I have watched the changes in the responsibility of the state relative to this issue and with all due respect to the people who work very hard, who administer, who are state employees that administer this program through the State of Nebraska, we at this time don't treat people entering or in the system worth a hoot. We're punitive, we're prejudiced, we're all the things that you have described; and my support of this legislation is to try to finally move away from that standard and move toward putting faces on these people, on giving them identities, on caring about them and truly setting up a system of case management that will give these people back their dignity and treat them as humans as they are and not people who want to abuse this system, but people who don't want to be in it. And the only way we're going to deal with it is to give them the tools to get out of that mire and that means the case management provisions in this bill that sit down and deal with every one of these issues that we've started talking about this morning and that we're going to continue to talk about. The whole key to this is a case management system of caring people who work one on one with these individuals to help them learn, to help them work with their families, to help them know where in the system they can access a support that they're not receiving now, to help them in job training, to help them better themselves so they are prepared to go into that work force that they so badly want to enter themselves. So as we have this debate, let's raise the level up of the people that we're talking about. Let's not talk about them as subhumans, let's not talk about them as a class of people that's different than ourselves, but...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BYARS: ...let's talk about them as a group of individuals that care for their families just as we do, that care about their futures, that care about what happens in their lives and let's think of what we can do to make that life better. I think it's imperative that we not lose sight of the overall scope of this legislation and that's what I think many of those senators, Senator Rasmussen, Senator Wesely, Senator Bohlke, Senator Ashford, that have been so involved in this want to do. They don't want to punish, they want to help these